

Remarks:

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3, and have added claims 18 and 19. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Objection to the Specification:

The specification is objected to on informal grounds set forth in numbered paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Following the Examiner's guidance, Applicants have amended the specification to overcome the objections.

Objection to Drawings:

Figures 9 and 10 are objected to because they do not have the legend "Prior Art." Applicants have amended Figures 9 and 10 to include the legend "Prior Art," and thereby overcome the drawing objections.

Claim Rejections Under Section 103:

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirose. By this Amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse this Section 103(a) rejection.

Claims 1 and 3 are independent claims, with claim 2 dependent on claim 1 and claims 4-17 dependent on claim 3.

Turning first to independent claim 1, it is directed to an angular velocity sensor and includes the following elements:

- a tuning fork for outputting a signal responsive to angular velocity,
- a first base having a top face for securing a part of the tuning fork thereto,
- a first cover for covering the tuning fork together with the first base,
- a second rubber body in contact with a top face of the first cover,

- a first rubber body having a top face in contact with a bottom face of the first base,
- a supporting plate having a top face in contact with a bottom face of the first rubber body,
- a second base disposed under the supporting plate, and
- a second tubular cover having a bottom and covering the tuning fork, the first base, the first cover, the second rubber body, the first rubber body, and the supporting plate together with the second base,
- **wherein the first rubber body and the second rubber body are compressed without contacting the tuning fork** and held by the top face of the supporting plate and an inner ceiling of the second cover.

The angular velocity sensor of claim 1 is patentably distinguished from the Hirosawa Patent at least based on the feature that the first rubber body and the second rubber body do not contact the tuning fork. This feature is neither taught nor suggested in the Hirosawa Patent.

The Hirosawa Patent, in general, relates to a vibratory gyroscope with includes a vibrator in which driving electrodes, grounding electrodes, and land sections are electrically connected to the driving and grounding electrodes. A holding member holds the vibrator and allows the vibrator to vibrate.

Referring to Figure 5 of the Hirosawa Patent, it is Applicants' contention that the tuning fork 1 does contact vibration isolation rubber member 3, first rubber member 31, and second rubber member 32. Thus, the vibratory gyroscope of Hirosawa is in direct contrast to the feature of Applicants' claimed invention where the first rubber body and the second rubber body do not contact the tuning fork. As further support for Applicants' position, Applicants direct the Examiner to the discussion of the Hirosawa Patent at column 4, lines 42-53; column 6, lines 38-46; and column 7, line 33 to column 8, line 26. Because the Hirosawa Patent does not teach or suggest the feature of Applicants' claim 1 of the first and second rubber

bodies not contacting the tuning fork, it is Applicants' contention that claim 1 and dependent claim 2 are patentably distinguished from the Hirosawa Patent.

Applicants further note that independent claim 1 calls for a first cover and a first base (see elements 34 and 31 of Figure 1 of the subject application) for covering the tuning fork. This feature is not taught or suggested in the vibratory gyroscope of the Hirosawa Patent. The Office Action in its review of the Hirosawa Patent appears to have ignored this distinction between Applicants' claimed invention and the Hirosawa Patent. Thus this feature is further grounds for patentably distinguishing the angular velocity sensor of claim 1 from the Hirosawa Patent.

Claim 3 has been amended in a similar fashion to claim 1 to indicate that the first and second rubber bodies do not contact the tuning fork. Thus for the same reasons as noted above, independent claim 3 and dependent claims 4-17 are patentably distinguished from the Hirosawa Patent.

Based on the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance and request that the Section 103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

Newly Added Claims:

By this Amendment, Applicants have added new independent claims 18 and 19. No new matter is added by the addition of claims 18 and 19.

Claim 18 is directed to an angular velocity sensor and includes the following feature:

"said first rubber body and said second rubber body are each held in a compressed state, without contacting each other, being held between the top face of said supporting plate and an inner ceiling of the second cover, thereby to reduce external vibration to said tuning fork."

This feature of claim 18 is neither taught nor suggested in the Hirosawa Patent. Referring to Figure 5 of the Hirosawa Patent, a first rubber member 31 and a second rubber member 32 are shown in a compressed state to isolate the vibrator 1. But the first rubber body 31 and the second rubber body 32 are in contact with each other. This is in contrast to the structure of Applicants' claimed invention defined in claim 18, and shown, for example, in Figure 2 of subject application where the second rubber body 37 and the first rubber body 35 are not in contact with one another. Based on this distinction, it is Applicants' contention that newly added independent claim 18 is patentably distinguished from the Hirosawa Patent, as well as the other cited references.

Applicants also note that claim 18 calls for a first cover and a first base (elements 34 and 31 of Figure 1 of the subject application) for covering the tuning fork. These structural features as defined are neither taught nor suggested in the vibratory gyroscope of the Hirosawa Patent, which further distinguishes Applicants' claim 18 from the Hirosawa Patent.

Newly added independent claim 19 is also directed to an angular velocity sensor and includes the following feature:

"a supporting base for fixing said tuning fork to said first base."

It is Applicants' contention that this feature is neither taught nor suggested in the Hirosawa Patent. Applicants further note that the Hirosawa Patent also does not teach the feature of the first cover and first base for covering the tuning fork as set forth in new claim 19.

For the reasons noted above, claims 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance.

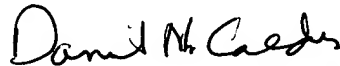
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In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Figures 9 and 10 (2 sheets)

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